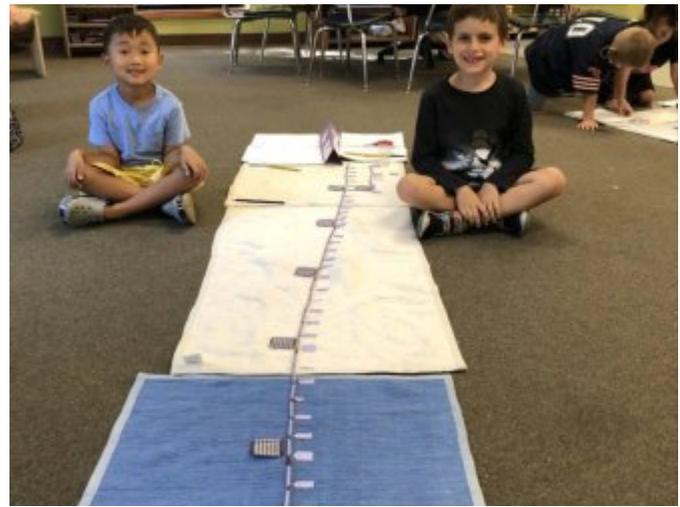


Annual Report



BRICKTON
MONTESSORI SCHOOL
Inspiring learners 3 months through 8th grade

“The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”

-Maria Montessori-

MISSION
Brickton Montessori School: A community of confident, compassionate, competent learners. Brickton Bold.

Social & Emotional Development is
as critical as a strong academic curriculum
to prepare the whole child for life and the
world.

Dear Brickton families and friends,

We are pleased to share our Fiscal Year 2020
Annual Report with you.

Our Board of Directors' efforts are focused on both the short-term and long-term financial stability of the school. In the short term, Brickton has made substantial commitments to our staff and the larger Brickton community. When COVID-19 struck, we retained our entire staff at full salary and also made a commitment to our families that in the event of another mandated closure, tuition abatement would be available for families of our Early Childhood students.

Looking to the long term, the Board continues to invest in upgrading our facility to ensure the safest learning environment possible for our students. Some of those investments have included modifications to our facility to better facilitate fresh air flow throughout our classrooms, as well as air purifiers with medical-grade filtration. These investments have allowed our students to continue their learning with each other in an environment that to date has had zero confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We hope you enjoy this review of the past year, and we hope that you will consider a generous gift to this year's Annual Fund. Please remember many employers will match an employee's gift, many times doubling or tripling the personal gift. This could be an important additional source of funds for our school. Please check with your employer if they offer such a program. Your participation in the Annual Fund sends an extremely powerful message that you value and believe in Brickton's mission and values, our faculty and staff, and, most importantly, our students.

Sincerely,

Jason Franzke
Interim Head of School

Katrina Pipasts
President, Brickton Board of Directors

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Katrina Pipasts, President

Jessica Haycraft, Secretary

Gardiner Sutton, Treasurer

Jason Franzke, Head of School

Lara Austrins

Tajani Farhan

Hannah McDonald

Heidi Natura

Kimberly Swan

Active Board Members 2019-2020

Joseph Somers

Cindy Degand, Secretary

Cheryl LaCost, Immediate Past Head of School



Global Citizens – Our students engage in experiential and service learning to develop critical thinking skills and gain a greater understanding of the diverse world around them.

Experiential Learning

- **Nature's Classroom** Institute environmental education weeks for Upper Elementary and Middle School provide opportunities for students to understand our ecosystem, participate in positive environmental change, and experience historical simulations.
- **Book Buddies** pairs Lower Elementary students with Upper Elementary or Middle School students to support development of and pleasure for reading. Lower Elementary students also serve as reading mentors to the kindergarten students.
- **Montessori Model United Nations** gives Middle School students an opportunity to experience the work of the United Nations first hand, researching world problems from the perspective of a specific country, and writing and sharing policy papers at the conference with delegates from other Midwestern Montessori schools.
- **Long-term research projects** begin in 3rd grade with the Needs of People study, taking an in-depth look at an ancient civilization. The Upper Elementary Cultural Fair Projects focus on specific studies of the social or physical sciences. Middle School Independent Projects focus on the choice of starting a business, trying a new hobby or developing a new habit. Students research 3 ways to implement their plan using the SMART goal system.
- **Micro businesses**, like Scholastic Book Fair and special Friday lunches, for Upper Elementary students and the drama productions for the Middle School, teach the mechanics of running a small business.



Service Learning

- **Cradles to Crayons** – Last year, we established a long-term relationship with this organization that provides needed clothing, school supplies, health and beauty supplies to children in need. Our students run the supply drive, deliver the supplies, help sort, clean and pack requested items for individual children.
- **Community Service** - Elementary students often volunteer in the Children's House and Toddler classrooms, assisting individual students or support tasks for teachers.
- **Service Partnerships** – Middle School students spend one hour per week in a partner classroom for the year, working with students and completing teacher support tasks.
- **Neighborhood Clean Up** – Students regularly clear the grounds of litter around our campus and the forest preserve.
- **Unicef** – Students collected money for Unicef during their annual Trick or Treat Box campaign.
- **Heifer Project** – Upper Elementary students fundraised to support families in 3rd world countries to develop sustainable animal husbandry.
- **Alliance for Great Lakes** – The Adopt-A-Beach program allowed the Middle School students to continue their work maintaining the Ohio Street Beach.
- **Salvation Army** – Families participated in the annual food drive for the winter.



Engagement and Inspiration – We seek daily to encourage our students to question what they observe, experiment with a concept, and share their knowledge with others.

Faculty Professional Development

As an accredited school, we continually strive to pair best practices with Montessori philosophy, to create an environment that support the needs and growth of our students and staff, as life-long learners.

Professional Development - Faculty participated in over 800 hours of professional development this year ranging from Montessori specific training to technology and innovation.

Professional Leadership – Faculty often take advantage of opportunities to share their experience and expertise with others. This past year, they participated in the following professional leadership events and activities:

- Presented at the AIMS (Association of Illinois Montessori Schools) conference – Megan White and Cheryl LaCost, Jen Cozad and Liz Skrodzki
- Served as AIMS president - Cheryl LaCost
- Served on accreditation teams for AMS (American Montessori Society) and/or ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States) – Charles Martin, Jen Cozad, and Cheryl LaCost



Nurturing Community – We strive to build and strengthen connections between all school constituents to support a vibrant school community.

Community Events

Our Parent Alliance works together with staff to host monthly events, bringing families and parents together to support a strong community spirit, including:

- Block Party
- Taste of Montessori Nights
- Family Reading Night
- Breakfast with Santa
- Movie Night
- Beer on the Wall - Park Ridge - Parent Night Out
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Anderson Book Fair
- Cradles to Crayons
- Swap Meet

Enrichment Activities

To foster development of skills beyond academics, we provide opportunities to enrich our students' lives,

- **Co-curriculars** include music, chorus, Spanish, art, yoga, and physical education classes.
- **Cross Country** is open to Upper Elementary and Middle School students providing training and participation in multi-school meets, led by co-coaches Jen Cozad and Jason Franzke .
- **After-School Extra-Curriculars** include Chess, Dance, Art, Sports, Running Club, Cooking, and Yoga.
- **Field trips** to live theater performances, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, museums and nature centers.

Parent Alliance & Committees

Brickton Montessori School's strength is based on our community of parents, grandparents, friends and supporters who share valuable time, skills and resources to strengthen our school. Although some events were postponed or cancelled due to safer-at-home quarantine in early 2020, volunteers devoted numerous hours to supporting classroom teachers as Room Parents and to planning events and fundraisers for the school-wide community. Here are just some of the devoted volunteers who worked behind the scenes.

Christin Anzalotti
Betty Boduch
Daniela Bonzholova
Velina Darakchieva
Cindy Degand
Tajani Farhan
Alina Gardiner

Jessica Haycraft
KC Higdon
Jessica India
Jamie Kendall
Sharon Martwick
Kelly McDermott
Kate Urbanski

Krissy Murukurthy
Brittney Neal
Sara Panzarella
Loredana Pistol
Donna Pollizze
Steve Pollizze
Andrada Popescu

Joanna Quargnali-Linsley
Jessica Rosenthal
Marlo Serritella
Kimberly Swan
Jennifer Thomas
Camelia Mecha
Jessica Morales



BY THE NUMBERS

earned through micro-businesses (lunches and book fair) by Upper Elementary



12 countries represented at the Montessori Model United Nations



500 hours of video presentations & meetings across program during safer-at-home quarantine



56 plants planted in community garden



800 hours of professional development completed by faculty and staff



over 500 books purchased from Scholastic and Anderson



1000 hours of volunteer parent power



Over 100 yoga poses completed during each weekly yoga class

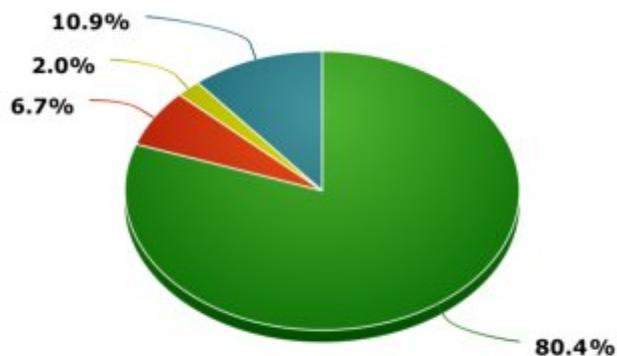


200+ candid photos posted in the yearbook created by Middle School students



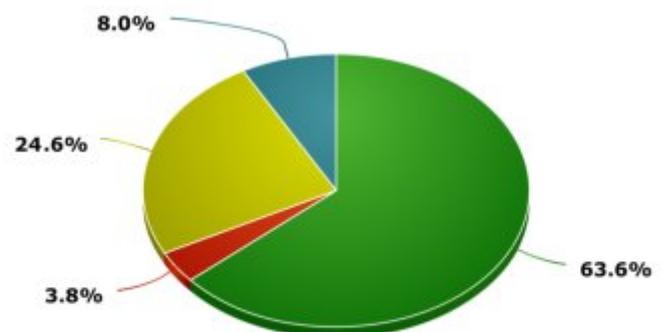
Operating Income:

Tuition and fees	\$1,339,077.13	(80.4%)
Summer program	\$111,987.34	(6.7%)
Charitable contributions	\$32,651.62	(2.0%)
Payroll Protection Program	\$182,000.00	(10.9%)
Total	\$1,665,716.09	(100.0%)



Operating Expenses:

Salaries and benefits	\$1,041,769.84	(63.6%)
Student activities	\$62,690.08	(3.8%)
Facility	\$402,224.25	(24.6%)
Other*	\$130,660.14	(8.0%)
Total	\$1,637,344.31	(100.0%)



■ Tuition & Fees
 ■ Summer Program
 ■ Charitable Contributions
 ■ Payroll Protection Program

■ Salaries & Benefits
 ■ Student Activities
 ■ Facility
 ■ Other*

*Other includes advertising, insurance, audit fees, membership fees, technology, new facility expenses, and other administrative expenses.



2019 - 2020 Annual Fund Donors

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Fund Campaign. Our goal is 100% participation from our school community. With your generous support, we were able to raise \$28,612.80.

A=Alumni

Fa= Faculty/Staff

Fd=Friend

GP=Grandparent

M=Matching gift

P=Parent of current student

PA=Parent of Alumni Student

D=Board of Directors

Major Donors, \$2,500

David Anthony and Mariann Lemke (P)

Leadership Donors, \$1,000-\$2,499

Sari Anthony (GP)

Michael and Lara Austrins (P/D)

John Barrett and Cheryl LaCost (Fa/PA/D)

Dave Duffy and LaDonna Taylor (PA)

Katrina Pipasts (PA/D)

Andrada Popescu (P)

Deena Reyes (P)

Evelyn Silva (P)

Richard and Aurea Thomas (P)

Community Givers \$500 - \$999

Kevin Flynn and Jessica Morales (P)

Warren Lapham and Jennifer Thomas (P)

Phillip and Rebecca Leslie (P)

Tim and Kelly McDermott Fa/PA)

Jezreel Rodriguez and Tajani Farhan Rodriguez (P)

Daniel and Jessica Rosenthal (P)

Sergey and Olga Shafran (P)

Anand and Line Srinivasan (Fd)

Nestor Wozny and Nadiya Volos-Wozny (P)

Givers \$1 - \$499

Mike Aguilar and Margaret Titley (P)

Aarti Arora (Fa)

Mike and Christin Anzalotti (P/Fa)

Neena Bhasin (Fa)

John Joyce and Betty Boduch (P/Pa/Fa)

Selena Brosnan (Fa)

Jeremy and Jen Cozad (P/Fa)

Michael and Beata Cubon (Fa)

David and Cynthia Degand (P/PA/D)

Erdem Delgerekh Family (P)

Undarmaa Bat-Erden (P)

Jeremiah and Marcy Flanagan (P/Fa)

Sara Gregory (PA/Fa)

Ovidiu and Monika Hadade (P)

Kathy Hummel (Fa)

Justus Joseph and Karen Masley Joseph (P)

Nerissa Kuebrich (P/Fa)

Erica Lane (P/ Fa)

Kevin and Allison Manasse (P)

Charles Martin (Fa)

John and Cami Mecha (P)

Danut and Ana Moldovan (P)

Sean and Megan O'Hehir (P/Fa)

Plamena Panayotova (P)

Yana Partenieva (P)

Chris and Nan Parson (Fd)

Larry Pence (Fa)

Nicholas Polachek and Kim Swan (P/D)

Steve and Donna Pollizze (P)

Alessandro and Joanna Quargnali-Linsley (P)

Sarahi Quinones (P)

Angelina Reyes (Fa)

Mauricio Rodriguez (P)

Celeste Scarlett (Fa)

Santana Family (P)

Richard and Liz Skrodzki (Fa)

Joahan Trujillo and Angela Brady (P)

Bolortuya Tuvaan (P)

Jackie Toro (Fa/PA)

John and Heather Wilcek (P/PA/Fa)

Corporate Matching Donations

Exelon Foundation

Living Habitats

VIP Nails

Vision –

Brickton Montessori School follows the time-tested, evidence-based Montessori approach to education, honoring the child as a whole, fostering a global mindset through peace education, with a commitment to educational leadership and institutional longevity.

Portrait of a Graduate

Along with our mission statement, we have a vision for our graduates that centers around The Three Cs: Competence, Confidence, and Community.

- **Competence:** Brickton graduates recognize that purposeful learning, problem solving, and decision-making are skills that create competent young adults who go out into the world with the attributes needed to take the next steps in their life journey with success.
- **Confidence:** Brickton graduates are able to self-advocate, demonstrate resilience to setbacks, and show courage to take on challenges and think creatively.
- **Community:** Brickton graduates understand that interdependence, compassion, and collaboration are important ingredients to the success of a community and the development of strong interpersonal relationships.

Alumni

Our students find the schools that best meet their academic needs and personal pursuits. In recent years, they have been accepted to the following schools:

Amundsen High School
Chicago Academy of the Arts
Cove School
Disney II Magnet High School
Fenwick High School
Jones College Prep
Lane Tech High School
Loyola Academy
Maine South High School
Mount Prospect High School
Notre Dame High School
Northridge Preparatory School
Oak Park River Forest High School
Ogden International High School
Regina Dominican College Preparatory High School
Resurrection College Prep High School
Rickover Naval Academy
St. Ignatius College Preparatory School
St. Patrick's High School
Taft High School
The Cove School
Trinity High School
Wolcott School



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8622 Catalpa Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60656
Phone: 773-714-0646
www.brickton.org
info@brickton.org